

4VAC15-240-51

Game: Turkey: Youth and Apprentice fall turkey hunting weekend.

Summary:

This proposal is to allow the standard daily and season bag limit to apply to the youth and apprentice fall turkey hunting weekend.

Proposed language of amendment:

4VAC15-240-51. Youth and Apprentice fall turkey hunting weekend.

In counties, cities, and areas with a fall turkey season, hunters 15 years of age and younger and holders of an apprentice hunting license may hunt turkey on the second Saturday in October and the following calendar day when in compliance with applicable license requirements and when accompanied and directly supervised by an adult who has a valid Virginia hunting license on his person or is exempt from purchasing a hunting license. Adult hunters accompanying youth hunters or apprentice license holders on these days may assist with calling turkey but they shall not carry or discharge weapons. ~~Youth and apprentice turkey hunters are limited on this weekend to one turkey per hunter.~~

Rationale:

The youth and apprentice turkey hunting seasons were instituted to increase participation by new hunters without the stress of competition from experienced hunters. In 2014, the season was expanded to include Sundays creating a youth and apprentice hunting weekend. However, the youth and apprentice season bag limits were maintained at one bird per hunter per weekend as the effects of adding Sunday hunting were not known at the time and there were concerns of over-harvesting turkeys early in the season. Subsequent monitoring indicates that additional harvest during the weekend would not likely cause excessive harvests but would provide additional recreational benefit to new hunters. This proposal would allow a youth or apprentice hunter to harvest birds in accordance with the daily and season bag limits set by the Board in 4VAC15-240-70.